



**Back Bay Restoration Foundation “State of the Bay” Conference
FY2008**

**Prepared by: Susan Wenzel, Executive Director
Back Bay Restoration Foundation**

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Product #1 Title: Forum Agenda/Registration Form and Name Tags 15% Deliverables

Back Bay Forum Agenda

March 18, 2009 at the Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach

0800 **Registration**

0830 *Welcome and Introductions*

Todd Barnes, BBRF President

0840 *"Back Bay: Bay and Beach of Change"*

Lillie Gilbert, President, Wild River Outfitters, Inc.

0900 *"Sustainable Landscape"*

Laurie Fox and Susan French, VA Tech Agricultural Extension

1000 *"Wildlife and Climate Change"*

Austin Kane, NWF

1045 *"Snow Goose Banding and Migration"*

Reese Lukei, BBNWR Volunteer

1115 *"Waterfowl Populations in Back Bay"*

Gary Costanzo, VDGIF

1145 *"Back Bay Fisheries Populations"*

Chad Boyce, VDGIF

1215 **Lunch / Visit Displays**

1300 *"Coastal Gems and Coastal Zone Management Program Brief"*

Nick Meade and Shep Moon, CZMP

1340 *"SAV Status in Back Bay"*

Liz Noble, ECSU

1410 *"Climate Change Adaptation"*

Eric Walberg, HRPDC

1440 *"Coastal Flooding and Governor's Climate Change Commission"*

Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch

1430 *Closing Remarks and Collect Surveys*

Todd Barnes, BBRF President

Back Bay Forum Registration

Amy Jones	Amy Jones Landscape Design
Andrea Battin	Wild River Outfitter
Anna Pratt	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Austin Kane	
Barbara Schaefer	
Barry Knight	Delegate for the 81st District

Barry Kurzer	BBRF Member
Beth Richardson	
Betrice Hovey	Norfolk Master Gardener Volunteer
Betty Ann DesRoches	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Brian Salem	BBNWR
Buffi Biggs-Davis	HRSD
Cameron Swain	False Cape State Park
Carl Fisher	BBRF Member
Chad Boyce	
Charles McKenna	City of Virginia Beach, Planning
Charlie Ellin	BBRF Board of Directors
Charlie Hurd	BBRF Board of Directors
Cheryl Petticrew	Friends of Back Bay
Christine Gilbert	BBRF Volunteer
Chuck Gibson	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Chuck Traub	Concerned Citizen
Cindi Fitzgerald	BBRF Member
Clay Bernick	City of Virginia Beach, Planning
Colonel Dionysios Anninos	
Debora Mosher	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Deborah Hoover-Powers	Wildlife Response
Diane Wishart	HRSD
Don Youngs	BBRF Member
Ed Nichols	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Eileen Levandoski	Sierra Club, VA Chapter
Ellis W. James	Sierra Club, Ches Bay Group
Eric Walberg	HRPDC
Ernie Aschenbach	VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
Gary Ardison	BBRF Member
Gary Costanzo	
Gayle Green	BBNWR
George Walsh	BBRF Treasurer
Gentry Childress	Back Bay Wildfowl Guild
Geralyn Mireles	BBNWR
Gina Swoope	BBNWR
Hariette Frost	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Herb Verhaagen	Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, BBRF Member
James O'Keefe	BBRF Member
James Reidy	Crystal Club
James Waterfield	BBRF Member
Jarred Brandwein	BBNWR, Refuge Manager
Jason Barney	Crystal Club
Jeff Hannah	Kerr Environmental
Jim Kincaid	BBRF Member, VB Master Gardener
Joann Ayscue	BBRF Member
Jody Ullman	Virginia Master Naturalist
John Gallegos	BBNWR, BBRF COY, 2008

Jose Gelpi	TCC Student
Julie Barnes	BBRF Member, Volunteer
Karen Forget	Lynnhaven River Now
Kate Melhuish	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Kathryn Fisher	Old Coast Guard Station
Kathy Owens	BBNWR, Deputy Refuge Manager
Kevin Collins	BBNWR
Kevin Riggs	BBRF Member
Kyle Barbor	False Cape State Park
Laurie Fox	
Lillie Gilbert	Wild River Outfitters
Lisa Syrop	BBRF Member
Liz Noble	
Louise Brandwein	BBRF, Tram Officer
Margaux Kerr	Student
Mary Ann Kincaid	BBRF Member, VB Master Gardener
Maureen Anderson	
Meyera Oberndorf	
Michele Shean	Virginia Garden Organic Grocery
Michelle Fuller	Norfolk Master Gardener
Molly Brown	Friends of Back Bay
Nancyb McIntyre	City of Virginia Beach, Planning
Nick Meade	
Nils Bahringer	BBRF Board Member
Norm Leblanc	HRSD, BBRF Board Member
Otis Kight	BBRF Member
Reese Lukei	BBNWR Volunteer
Ren Fortier	BBRF Board Member
Richard Dyer	BBRF member
Richard Whittemore	BBRF Board Member
Rick Felini	BBRF Member
Rose Anderson	
Sallie Kerr	BBRF Board Member
Sarah Davis	BBNWR
Scott Harper	Virginian Pilot
Shawn Hopson	City of VB, Parks and Natural Areas
Shep Moon	
Skip Stiles	
Steve McLaughlin	City of Virginia Beach,
Sue Poe	
Susan French	
Susan Wenzel	BBRF, Executive Director
Suzanne McBride	Wildlife Response, Education/Outreach
Terry Jenkins	Virginia Beach Audubon
Todd Barnes	BBRF, President
Tom West	Virginia Beach Master Gardener
Vickie Shufer	Wild Foods ??
Waller Whittemore	BBRF Member, COY, 2007

Walt Tegge	BBNWR
Wayne Gordon	
Will Gilbert	BBRF BOD
Yolima Carr	Hermitage Museum

Back Bay Forum Name Tag



Shep Moon
Virginia Coastal Program,
 DEQ

Product #2 Title: CD of the 2009 Back Bay Forum Presentations 15% Deliverables
(2) Copies Included

Product #3 Title: Action Plan 45% Deliverables
Back Bay Restoration Foundation Action Plan
 (Follow up actions to the Back Bay Forum 2009)

The Action Plan for the restoration and protection of the Back Bay watershed focuses upon items gleaned from comment forms provided by Forum attendees. Specific Action Items include the following:

1. **Encourage networking of related interest groups.**
 - a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to coordinate efforts with local watershed and wildlife groups as well as local, state and federal government entities in an effort to share contacts and resources, ensure coordination of projects and proposals, garner support for efforts, and facilitate the widest dissemination of information relating to pertinent environmental initiatives.
 - b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to provide speakers from local watershed and wildlife groups for future forums and bi-monthly membership meetings.
 - c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will include applicable information booths at future Forums. This effort provides an additional outlet for distribution of pertinent information and well as affords local watershed and wildlife groups and government entities the opportunity to advertise/present their group to a varied subset of individuals.
2. **Workshops and hands-on restoration activities**

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue its riparian buffer projects in the Back Bay watershed. The Foundation has identified two area schools interested in planting riparian buffers in the Back Bay watershed. The City of Virginia Beach has expressed an interest in continuing its support of these efforts and will coordinate with the BBRF Executive Director via monthly Clean Water Task Force meetings held in coordination with the city Environmental Management Office.
- b. Use of City Storm Water Management Program funding to provide additional volunteer opportunity by marking storm water drains within the Back Bay Watershed. Funding has been awarded to develop metal drain markers for each watershed within the city. All necessary equipment as well as the markers are available to BBRF from the city Storm Water Management department. First batch of markers applied summer 2009. Second issue scheduled for fall 2009.

3. Develop and implement Pollution Prevention Programs

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation staff, members and volunteers will work with the City of Virginia Beach Clean Community Coalition to develop a set of pollution prevention programs to include but not be limited to: roadway and waterway cleanups, recycling programs and others.
- b. Efforts will be published in bi-monthly newsletters and on website to both garner volunteers and educated members about efforts.

4. Further Current Educational Mission

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation membership meetings and newsletter articles will feature information about storm water and erosion control BMP's. A series of articles has been developed by the Executive Director focusing upon point and non-point pollution, invasive and non-native species, riparian buffers and other issues impacting the Back Bay watershed.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue providing information to local schools and area civic groups relating to issues concerning Back Bay watershed. Additional grant money has been acquired to expand the educational program specifically at the middle and high school levels. The goals include raising awareness, securing a volunteer database, and fulfilling our educational intentions.

Product #4	Title: Web site link for Forum 2009	15% Deliverables
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<http://www.bbrf.org/forum.htm>

Product #5	Title: Survey and comment form	10% Deliverables
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129 participants (speakers and attendees) provided with Survey and Comment form. 72 surveys returned complete. Compiled information follows:

Rate the overall effectiveness of the topics (1 lowest and 10 highest)

Back Bay: Bay and Beach of Change	8.1 (average)
Sustainable Landscapes	8.1 (average)
Wildlife and Climate Change	7.7 (average)
Snow Goose Banding and Migration	8.9 (average)
Waterfowl Populations in Back Bay	8.6 (average)
Back Bay Fisheries Populations	8.7 (average)
Coastal GEMS and CZMP Brief	7.9 (average)
SAV Status in Back Bay	8.3 (average)
Climate Change Adaptation	7.9 (average)
Coastal Flooding/Governor's Climate Change Commission	9.4 (average)

1. What topics would you like to see covered in future Forums:
 - Combine efforts with Lynnhaven River of Chesapeake Bay Foundation, other agency interaction (13)
 - Proactive/do it yourself restoration strategies (8)
 - More extensive updates about ongoing issues (marina, etc.) (7)
 - Group discussions to encourage problem solving and forward thinking (7)
 - More history and heritage from Lillie (6)
 - TMDLs (5)
 - Long term refuge/watershed management strategies (4)
 - Mention other events/functions held by BBRF (4)
 - Development, farming, timber clearing and effects on pollution and sediment (4)
 - Liz Noble return with updates and additional information (SAV status) (3)
 - Available funding, fundraising opportunities (3)
 - BBRF mission statement, vision for future, goals, past projects (3)
 - Informatio/updates from EPA specific to Back Bay (2)
 - City of VB comprehensive plan (2)
 - Amphibians, reptiles and other wildlife (not just fish and waterfowl) (2)
 - Current wildlife population trends (2)
 - House Bill 1166 (2)
 - Green building (small and large scale) (2)
 - Dead Zones and oxygen level trends (Water quality)(2)
 - How can universities get involved
 - Dune restoration
2. What specifically of value did you learn at the Back Bay Forum?
 - Wildlife trends/populations in Back Bay (27)
 - GEMS (new and interesting) (15)
 - History of Back Bay (13)
 - Landscaping techniques/raingardens (12)
 - SAV trends (11)
 - How many agencies in the area, what they do, how can individuals get involved (6)
 - Goose banding (4)
 - Effects of salinity (4)
 - Global Warming/Sea level rise (4)

- The power of many groups working together as one for Back Bay
3. What changes would you like to see in next year's forum?
 - Recycle Bins (8)
 - Working groups to formulate action plan to send to state legislators, call to action (4)
 - Introduction of board members by individual board members (2)
 - Stay on schedule (2)
 - Break out into workshops
 - Videotape for future viewing (2)
 - Who is returning attendee and who is new (perhaps on badge) (2)
 - Allow all speakers same amount of time (2)
 - Need diet drinks
 - Specifically invite civic leaders
 - No Chesapeake Bay data. Stick to Back Bay
 4. Do you think the Forum should be scheduled every other year or remain every year?
 - Every year – 67
 - Every other year – 3
 - No opinion – 2

Additional Comments (from back of form)

Coastal GEMS:

- GEMS is very similar to programs at Harvard University Landscape Architecture Masters Program. I would suggest Professor Carl Steinitz. They coordinate studios that can produce data collection, etc., which would help with respect to \$\$\$. Ex: they flew us to Florida to map land uses and data collection which ended up in a GIS program.
- Do you compare with other data from other state agencies?
- Gems waypoints
- GEMS sea level rise predictions
- Add macro-scale bathymetry of Back Bay, Ches Bay and rivers, SAV mapping (from Liz Noble), channels and navigation hazards (from NOAA or USGS), Landuse within watershed (forest, agriculture, urban/suburban residential, industrial), population density (PDC), Air quality data (DEQ), topography/elevation (wetland watch), VA Dept of Emergency Management, LIDAR, living shorelines (candidates, participant, hardened shorelines)
- Riparian buffers (City of VB data)
- Resource Protection Areas (RPAs)
- Natural and restored wetland areas

Other:

- Good format, etc. Continue the good work. (11)
- Similar to city watershed meeting two weeks prior (6)
- Exhibits were wonderful. Please continue this effort (6)
- Opposed to "sea level rise" and "climate change" being talked about as fact
- Hit all walks of life. There was something for everyone